



**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460**

JAN 19, 2001

**OFFICE OF  
PREVENTION, PESTICIDES AND  
TOXIC SUBSTANCES**

Dr. Morton Lippman, Interim Chair  
Science Advisory Board  
Executive Director  
US Environmental Protection Agency  
Ariel Rios Building  
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20460

Dear Dr. Lippman:

Thank you for the November 22, 2000, Science Advisory Board (SAB) commentary resulting from a workshop on the Diffusion and Adoption of Innovations in Environmental Protection EPA-SAB-EEC-COM-01-001. The Administrator asked that the Office of Prevention, Pesticides and Toxic Substances (OPPTS) respond to you directly.

Thank you for allowing us to focus your committee's attention on a program that is of Agency-wide interest--the practice of pollution prevention as expressed through the multimedia Persistent, Bioaccumulative and Toxic (PBT) Initiative. This program is important to this Agency. It provides an effective framework that facilitates cross-program and multimedia planning and action. The program also provides a central focal point for industry and other stakeholders who struggle daily with environmental decisions centered on these priority PBT chemicals. The advice that you offer in your commentary will benefit us greatly as we implement this program. We are particularly intrigued with the idea of developing a diffusion strategy, and would seek your counsel on how best to accomplish this task. Initiative is a gateway to new innovations, especially pollution prevention opportunities and an opportunity to do business more effectively and efficiently.

I would also like to commend you on your recent workshop. The workshop, based on your commentary and the feedback that I received from my staff who attended and presented material, was most useful. It was a worthwhile learning experience, and provided useful guidance for moving our program forward.

Thank you again for convening this workshop. We look forward to further discussions with your committee. Should you have any questions, please feel free to call Tom Murray of our Pollution Prevention Division at 202-260-1876.

Sincerely,

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Stephen L. Johnson  
Principal Deputy Assistant Administrator

cc: Dr. Hillary Inyang, Chair  
Environmental Engineering Committee, SAB

Dr. Roger Kasperson, Chair  
Subcommittee on the Diffusion and Adoption of Innovations, SAB